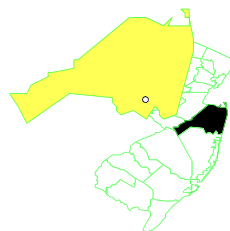


# ZSCHIEGNER REFINING NEW JERSEY

EPA ID# NJD986643153



**EPA REGION 2**  
**CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 04**  
Monmouth County  
Howell Township

## Site Description

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The Zschiegner Refining Company operated from 1964 to 1992 as a precious metals recovery facility. On-site operations included the chemical stripping of precious metals from watch bands, film, and electrical components. At an unknown date, the facility owner also began illegally manufacturing methamphetamine and, subsequently, the facility was raided in October 1992 by the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration. Approximately 3,000 different chemicals (including peroxide, cyanide, caustics, and acids) were improperly stored throughout the site. The 6.1-acre site is located in a rural residential area. The Haystack Brook and its associated wetlands run southward on the eastern portion of the property and a tributary to the brook runs along the southern portion of the property. A single-story building is on the southwestern portion of the property and a collapsed cesspool is between the building and Haystack Brook. Two homes border the site; the closest house is within 50 yards of the on-site building. The presence of organic and inorganic contamination in soil and surface water was found during initial sampling. Ground water beneath the site has not yet been sampled. During initial removal actions, approximately 2,000 gallons of acidic solutions, 1,600 gallons of basic solutions, and 1,400 small containers of hazardous substances were transferred to acceptable containers and disposed of off site.

**Site Responsibility:** This site is being addressed through Federal actions.

### NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 9/25/97  
Final Date: 3/6/98

## Threats and Contaminants

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Soil, surface water, sediments, ground water, and a building are contaminated, primarily with metals. Ingestion or contact with these media may pose a threat to human health and the environment.

## Cleanup Approach

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On September 30, 1998, EPA initiated a remedial investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination and will prepare a feasibility study to develop and evaluate cleanup alternatives. Field work for the remedial investigation began late in the summer of 2000.

## Response Action Status

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**Initial Actions:** A removal action was initiated by EPA on November 2, 1992. Materials were segregated and transferred to acceptable containers, potentially explosive/reactive items were detonated, hazardous materials were removed offsite for disposal, liquids in vats and drums were sampled, and on-site soil and sediment samples were taken. Phase II of the removal action was initiated in March 1993 and involved the disposal of hazardous waste secured during Phase I. Further sampling was conducted in 1995; analysis of these samples revealed the presence of inorganic contaminants in soil, surface water, and sediment. In July 1998, EPA tested the private well water of nine residents living downstream of the site for organic and inorganic compounds. No contaminants were found at concentrations above relevant state or federal health-based standards.

## Cleanup Progress



*(RI/FS Stage)*

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EPA will develop a cleanup plan after completion of the remedial investigation and feasibility study.